(c) the objectives achieved with the above funds by both the States and the details of increased productivity, if any; and

(d) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that the above funds were diverted for purposes other than they are meant for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched during the year 2007-08; The details of amount released by the Government under RKVY to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and expenditure reported by the State Governments in the last two years *i.e.* 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Year	Amount Released	Exp. Reported
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2007-08	61.08	61.08
		2008-09	297.17	296.01
2.	Maharashtra	2007-08	128.20	113.58
		2008-09	1261.77	213.52

In the current year, releases to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra under RKVY are Rs.256.25 crore and Rs.235.81 crore respectively.

(c) The States have taken up several schemes with RKVY funds in the sectors of crop development, soil testing, micro and minor irrigation, animal husbandry etc. However, since the Scheme was lauched only in August 2007, it is difficult, at this stage, to assess the increase in productivity on account of the amounts released under RKVY.

(d) No case of diversion of funds allotted for implementation of RKVY has come to the notice of the Ministry.

Neglect of agriculture sector

†143. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sustainability of agriculture has now turned a mirage because of constant neglect of agriculture in the last three decades;

(b) the determining factors of sustainability and whether constantly decreasing investment therein is leading to increasing adverse impact;

(c) whether under the influence of global marketing, farmers have been motivated to produce taking a cue from multinational and capitalist companies;

(d) whether it is a fact that the farmers are being reduced to agricultural labourer through contract farming and future tradings; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(e) whether it has endangered the food security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Growth rate of Agriculture GDP has been always positive over the Plan periods since the Fifth Plan period, even though these figures have varied between 2.1 to 5.7 per cent. During the last four years, the overall average growth rate has been more than 4%. While it is true that during the initial Plan periods Gross Capital Formation had seen some fluctuating trend, but the total investment in agriculture has increased in the range of 8% to 14.2% per annum during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08. Out of this, the public sector investment has increased at a faster rate in the range of 17.6% to 22.5%. Thus, agriculture profession is indeed sustainable. In order to make agriculture a remunerative vocation as well, the Government also provides Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) after considering the recommendations of Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices. Substantial increase in MSP of major cereals ranging from 49% to 78% was provided during the last five years. MSPs of pulses and oilseeds were enhanced by upto 83% during the same period.

(c) to (e) The National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 aims to improve economic viability of farming to substantially increase the net income of the farmers. Towards this end. Government of India envisages growing farm sector, better rural infrastructure and connectivity, skill development, adequate power supply and easy availability of credit that would help in the creation of more employment opportunities in the rural non-farm sector and in turn, enhance the income of farm households by creating opportunities for small and marginal farmers as well as landless farmers. Besides, for the benefit of small and marginal farmers, the NPF, 2007 provides for Contract Farming, Cooperative Farming, Group Farming, Small Holders' Estates, Farmers Companies and State Farms, so that the economies of scale could be realized by achieving higher level of production through use of latest technology and other inputs. The small land owners would continue to hold their land in their names and would be given the share from the income generated by the farming activities by the contracting institutions as per their landholding and to supplement their income. They would also be provided job opportunities either on farm itself or in the non-farm avenues. These policy initiatives have resulted in increase in foodgrain production over the years barring the years in which same natural calamity had struck. Thus, food security of the nation has not been endangered.

Damage to kharif crops in Vidarbha

144. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Vidarbha, Kharif season crops like jowar were completely lost, soyabean suffered more than 60 per cent damage and cotton crop equally faced the heat;

(b) if so, whether crops in three million hectares have suffered the worst; and

(c) whether long-term war-footing measures were adopted to substantially upgrade the abysmally poor irrigation facilities to give a modicum of relief to the farmers?